ISSUE COMICS SPECIAL

니코니코일기

MARI OZAWA 2

정식 한국어판

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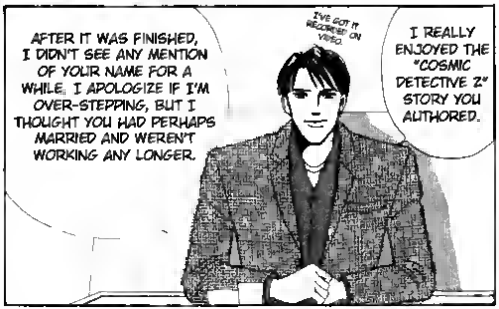
니코니코일기 ②

I'LL GO BUY SOME-THING ELSE. SUSHI WILL DO, RIGHT?
UGH, HOW FRUSTRATING THERE'S ONLY FRIED STUFF IN THIS LUNCHBOX.
AND I'M ON A DIET.
AD! YOU'RE SHORT TWO LUNCHBOXES! GO BUY THEM IMMEDIATELY!
YESSIR!
따끈따끈 도시락
MENU
AH.
TAKANASI -SAN
- Since that time

SOMETHING LIKE THAT DID HAPPEN.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
10 years have passed by.
I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT WE'D RUN INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN SOMEDAY, IN THIS FASHION
NOW HE'S IN A SPOT WHERE HE CAN GIVE PEOPLE A HARD TIME
HAS TURNED INTO SUCH A PRUDENT MAN
SINCE I WAS ALREADY AWARE THAT YOU BECAME A SCENARIO WRITER AFTER YOU QUIT BEING A MANAGER, KEI-SAN
WE BOTH WENT THROUGH A LOT BACK THEN, DIDN'T WE?
THOUGH IT'S NOT ANY BETTER FOR ME RIGHT
TO THINK THAT THAT AI

YES?
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING SOMETHING
OF COURSE IT WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH BETTER IF WE HAD MET AGAIN WHEN I WASN'T DESPERATELY FORCING MY WAY IN, BUT RATHER, COME AT YOUR OWN REQUEST.
IN THIS FASHION ?


I REALLY ENJOYED THE "COSMIC DETECTIVE Z" STORY YOU AUTHORED.
I'VE GOT IT RECORDED ON VIDEO.
AFTER IT WAS FINISHED, I DIDN'T SEE ANY MENTION OF YOUR NAME FOR A WHILE. I APOLOGIZE IF I'M OVER-STEPPING, BUT I THOUGHT YOU HAD PERHAPS MARRIED AND WEREN'T WORKING ANY LONGER.

AND EVEN IF I HAD MARRIED, I WOULDN'T QUIT WORKING.
BECAUSE I LIKE WHAT I DO.
I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOU ASKING
NOT AT ALL. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT HASN'T HAPPENED YET.
FOR ABOUT THE PAST YEAR, I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH MANGA WRITING...
I SEE.
I did it-!
HOW FORTUNATE!
THEY SAY THAT YOU FIND A NEW PAIR OF SHOES WHEN YOU THROW A PAIR AWAY. I GUESS THAT SAYING IS TRUE!
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A GOOD DRAMA!
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT!

BEFORE I GO HOME, I GUESS I'LL GO LOOK FOR SOMETHING THAT I CAN USE TO GET IDEAS TO FRESHEN MY IMAGE A BIT. LIKE A PHOTOBOOK OR VIDEO, PERHAPS
"FACIAL COVER-UP METHOD" MIGHT HAVE KICKED IN FOR ME AFTERALL
YEAH. THINGS ARE WORKING OUT SO NICELY THAT I'M ALMOST AFRAID...
THOUGH, WHETHER I'LL REALLY GET THE JOB OR NOT WILL DEPEND ON THE QUALITY OF THE SCENARIO I'LL BE WRITING, OF COURSE
I SUPPOSE THAT COULD BE IT AS WELL.
I WILL PAY YOU BACK ONE DAY BY COVERING DISCOLORATION ON YOUR FACE FOR YOU.
"FACIAL COVER-UP METHOD"?
I ONLY COVERED IT UP WITH THE CONCEALER. THE DISCOLORATION UNDER YOUR EYES.
TO BE HONEST, AT THAT TIME, I EVEN CHANTED A SPELL SO THINGS WOULD GO WELL

MY HEART'S STILL POUNDING...
WELL, DO YOUR BEST!
THIS CONFIDENCE-TEASE'S GETTING UNLEASHIN'...
OF COURSE THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T DO MY VERY BEST!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

I HOPE THAT THINGS WILL GO WELL...

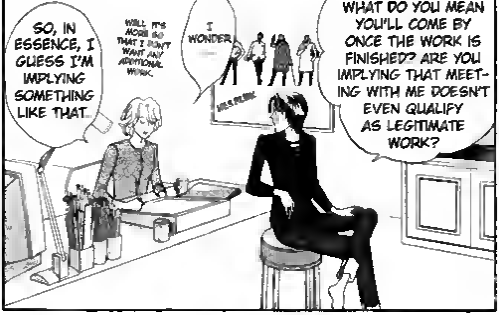
-November-

I'M BACK!
WELCOME BACK!
THERE'S A SNACK FOR YOU IN THE FRIDGE, SO GO EAT IT.
WOW ....
YES?
ONEE-SAN
LATELY, BOTH ONEE-SAN AND THIS PLACE FEEL MORE AND MORE MAGNIFICENT,.

I'LL GET IT.
PRRRR
AH
IT'S NOT LIKE I MADE THE MESS....
IF YOU REALLY THINK SO, THEN HOW ABOUT CLEANING A BIT?
HELLO.
AH.
TAKANASHI-SAN.
?
TAKANASHI?
ARE YOU MAKING ANY PROGRESS.

SFX: Nod Nod
EH?
SINCE I'M DONE WITH TODAY'S WORK AND CAN LEAVE EVEN NOW,
PERHAPS WE CAN DINE TOGETHER SOMEWHERE NEAR YOU..
I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE LET ME HAVE ONE MORE DAY.
ACTUALLY, I'M STRUGGLING A BIT WITH THE LAST SCENE...
SHOULD I HEAD OVER IN THAT DIRECTION NOW?
SFX: WHAT?
I SEE.
THEN GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN EVER HELP WITH, PLEASE CALL MY CELL PHONE AT ANY TIME.
IT... IT'S OKAY.
SINCE IT'S NOT YET AT A STAGE WHERE I CAN SHOW SOMEONE ...

NO. SOMEONE FROM WORK.
KEI-ONEESAN, WAS THAT PERSON JUST NOW ONE OF YOUR RELATIVES?
THE NUMBER IS...
THEY'RE BOTH PRONOUNCED "TAKANASHI," BUT THE KANJI SPELLING IS DIFFERENT
BUT YOU CALLED THE PERSON TAKANASHI.
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE MOCKING ME?
?
WHY?
HMM...
KEI-ONEESAN'S FACE TURNED RED!


SO, IN ESSENCE, I GUESS I'M IMPLYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WELL, IT'S MORE SO THAT I DON'T WANT ANY ADDITIONAL WORK.
I WONDER...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'LL COME BY ONCE THE WORK IS FINISHED? ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT MEETING WITH ME DOESN'T EVEN QUALIFY AS LEGITIMATE WORK?

NO. I GUESS YOU ARE HIGH-UP INDEED. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN SUCH A HIGH-UP IMPORTANT PERSON?
UNBELIEVABLE!

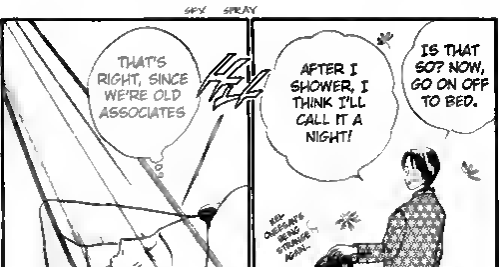
IT'S CLEAR THAT, UP UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING CONSIDERABLY FROM SUPERVISORS...
THE TRUTH THING ABOUT YOU IS THAT YOU CAN NEVER ACCEPT "OTHER" MEANINGS FOR WHAT THEY ARE...
KEI...
AND I'M WORKING VERY SERIOUSLY!
BUT I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THIS WORK.

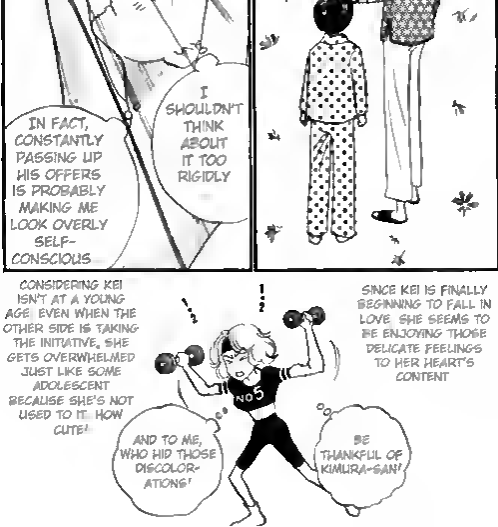
SFX: SIGH
SFX: SIGH
I'LL LEAVE HER ALONE FOR NOW
AT LEAST WE'RE SURE THAT THIS NEW PERSON DOESN'T DISLIKE YOU
MORE RECENTLY: KIMURA THE TURTLE
DON'T EVEN GO THERE!
EEEE!
ARE YOU ALL DONE?
LIKE?
SFX: POUND
SFX: THUMP THUMP
SHALL WE GO HAVE A DRINK THEN, FOR A HEALTHY DIVERSION?
I KNOW OF A GOOD PLACE.
UHM, UHM
NO... I'M A LITTLE STUCK ON THE LAST SCENE ..
WILL THIS QUALIFY AS SOMETHING WORK-RELATED?
NO...
WELL...

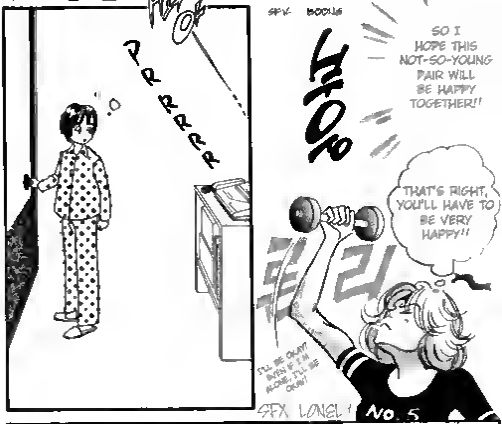
spy
click
FOR WHAT REASON?!
THEN I'LL HAVE TO PASS.
SINCE TIME IS PRECIOUS.
I'VE BEEN SENSING THIS FOR A WHILE...
I THINK HE'S JUST ASKING YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE OLD ASSOCIATES AFTERALL.
HOW CAN YOU GO OUT FOR A GOOD DIVERSION WITH A CO-WORKER?!
WHY, YOU ASK ? IT'S OBVIOUSLY JUST FOR A GOOD DIVERSION.

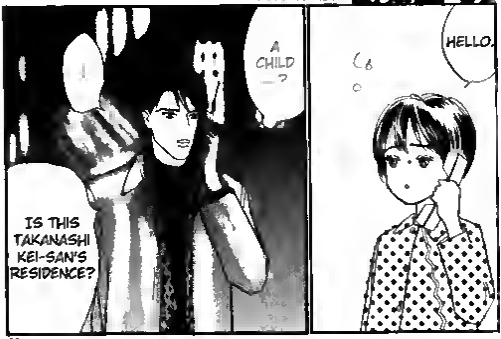
HOW DARE HE TRY TO USE ME!
: HE CAN DO THAT WITH HIS LOVER!
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S SOME HOT-SHOT WRITER, WHO I COULDN'T AFFORD NOT TO WELCOME ADVANCES FROM. IN FACT, THERE'S NO REASON WHY I, A WRITER WHO MAY NOT EVEN BE EMPLOYED FORMALLY, SHOULD TAKE ANY MORE OF MY PRECIOUS TIME TO BE SERVICEABLE OUTSIDE OF WORK.
AND THAT PERSON SHOULD BE BUSY PREPARING FOR THE DRAMA AS WELL.
MAYBE HE JUST WANTS TO TAKE A BREAK BY REMINISCING ABOUT THE OLD DAYS WITH YOU?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S A POINT IN ASKING
I MEAN, TO BE HONEST, THAT GUY'S REALLY ATTRACTIVE!!
EH!
NO WAY!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NO WAY"? DID YOU ASK HIM?
AHH, LOOKS LIKE WE ENDED UP TALKING ABOUT THE PAST ALL...
HE MAY NOT HAVE ONE.
I'M TOO HOT.

SFX Mora and Mora
WELL, YOU GO AHEAD AND THINK WHAT YOU WILL. I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO MEET A DEADLINE TOMORROW, SO I'M HANGING UP
TOLONGUEN-TOLONGUEN-TOLONGUEN-


THAT'S RIGHT, SINCE WE'RE OLD ASSOCIATES
ISH
I SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO RIGIDLY
IN FACT, CONSTANTLY PASSING UP HIS OFFERS IS PROBABLY MAKING ME LOOK OVERLY SELF-CONSCIOUS
AFTER I SHOWER, I THINK I'LL CALL IT A NIGHT!
IS THAT SO? NOW, GO ON OFF TO BED.
KEI-CHAN'S BEING STRANGE AGAIN.


CONSIDERING KEI ISN'T AT A YOUNG AGE, EVEN WHEN THE OTHER SIDE IS TAKING THE INITIATIVE, SHE GETS OVERWHELMED JUST LIKE SOME ADOLESCENT BECAUSE SHE'S NOT USED TO IT. HOW CUTE!
SINCE KEI IS FINALLY BEGINNING TO FALL IN LOVE, SHE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING THOSE DELICATE FEELINGS TO HER HEART'S CONTENT
NO.5
AND TO ME, WHO HID THOSE DISCOLOR-ATIONS!
BE THANKFUL OF KIMURA-SAN!

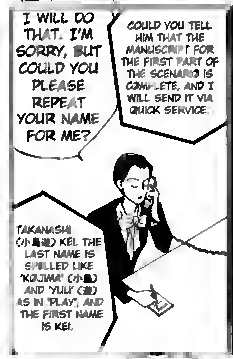

SFX suddenly
SFX BOOM
PRRRRR
SO I HOPE THIS NOT-SO-YOUNG PAIR WILL BE HAPPY TOGETHER!!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE VERY HAPPY!!
I'LL BE OKAY EVEN IF I'M ALONE. I'LL BE OKAY!
SFX LONELY
NO. 5


A CHILD —?
IS THIS TAKANASHI KEI-SAN'S RESIDENCE?
HELLO.

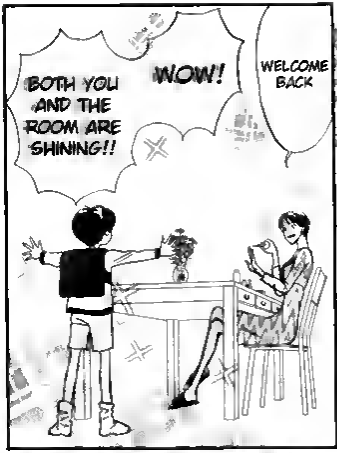
SFX Yawn
YES, IT IS.
I'M TAKANASHI FROM AMK TV.
AND KEI-SAN IS...?
SHE'S IN THE SHOWER RIGHT NOW.
IS THAT SO.
WHO IS THIS?
SFX Scribble
SFX Yawn---
TAKANASHI
TAKANASHI
PHONE
SFX Scribble
SFX Click
THEN PLEASE LET TAKANASHI-SAN KNOW THAT I CALLED.
OKAY.
I WILL ...

SO SHE HAD A CHILD...

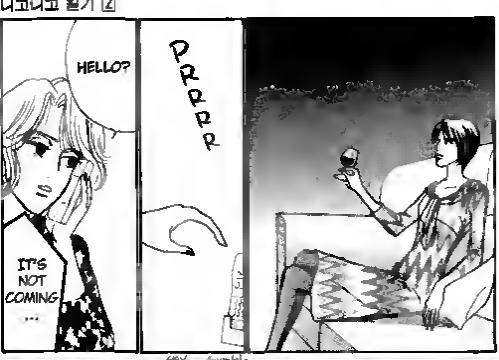
ALL
DONE!

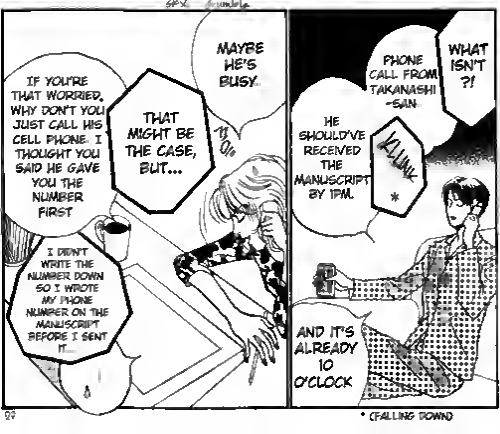

I WILL DO THAT. I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE REPEAT YOUR NAME FOR ME?
COULD YOU TELL HIM THAT THE MANUSCRIPT FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE SCENARIO IS COMPLETE, AND I WILL SEND IT VIA QUICK SERVICE.
TAKANASHI (小鳥遊) KEI. THE LAST NAME IS SPELLED LIKE "KOJIMA" (小島) AND "YUU" (遊) AS IN "PLAY", AND THE FIRST NAME IS KEI.
TAKANASHI-SAN IS CURRENTLY IN A MEETING.
HELLO? MY NAME'S TAKANASHI KEI, MAY I SPEAK WITH TAKANASHI-SAN FROM THE 2ND PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT?
CAN YOU TAKE A MESSAGE FOR ME THEN?

TO BE HONEST
AND SINCE IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MAYBE I'LL GET A MAKEOVER!
AFTER A GOOD SLEEP, I'M FEELING GOOD, AND THE WEATHER'S FAIR.
AND I SENT IT OFF WITH QUICK SERVICE SO I'LL CLEAN AND DO LAUNDRY
NOW ...


BOTH YOU AND THE ROOM ARE SHINING!!
WOW!
WELCOME BACK
IF I'M GOING TO BE MEETING HIM ANYWAY...
I'M BACK!

GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
THE ONLY MESSY THINGS LEFT IN THIS APARTMENT ARE YOUR ROOM AND THE DESK!
THAT'S RIGHT.



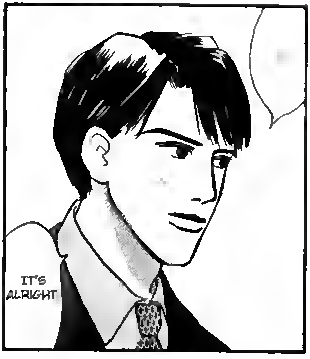

MAYBE HE'S BUSY.
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED, WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL HIS CELL PHONE. I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE GAVE YOU THE NUMBER FIRST
THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE, BUT...
I DIDN'T WRITE THE NUMBER DOWN SO I WROTE MY PHONE NUMBER ON THE MANUSCRIPT BEFORE I SENT IT...
PHONE CALL FROM TAKANASHI-SAN
WHAT ISN'T ?!
HE SHOULD'VE RECEIVED THE MANUSCRIPT BY 1PM.
RINNNG
*
AND IT'S ALREADY 10 O'CLOCK

* CFALLING DOWN

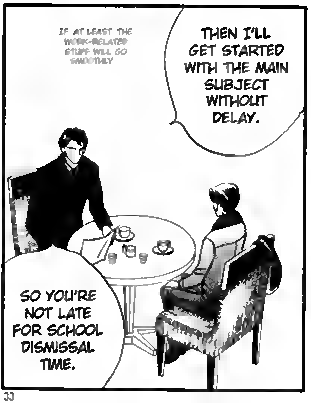
spy. click —
SORRY, IT'S TAKANASHI-SAN! I'LL CALL BACK LATER!
NO NEED.
AH. THE PHONE'S RINGING.
PIR- PIR-
OUTSIDE OF WORK, THAT IS. WELL THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST...
KEI, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO MEET WITH HIM?
I READ THE MANUSCRIPT FOR THE FIRST PART.
PLEASE GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE WITH THIS.

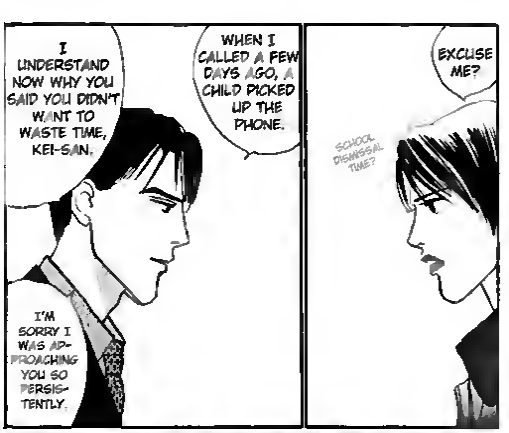
OKAY ...
AH.
AND THIS WILL BE 100% WORK-RELATED.
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A MEETING WITH YOU, EVEN TOMORROW.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE 2 OR 3 PLACES I WANT TO HAVE TOUCHED UP.
LOOKS LIKE I'VE ALREADY MADE A SCRATCH.
NO NEED.
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
TO EMPHASIZE

Richered
Patisserie
1994
PATISSERIE


IT'S ALRIGHT

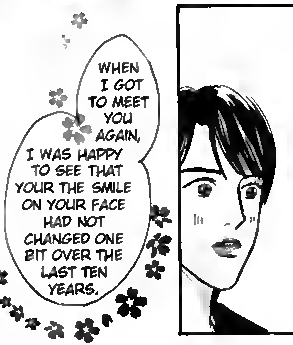
A PERSON WHO TRIES TO CATCH TWO RABBITS IN ONE-SHOT WON'T EVEN CATCH ONE *
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.


IF AT LEAST THE WORK-RELATED STUFF WILL GO SMOOTHLY
THEN I'LL GET STARTED WITH THE MAIN SUBJECT WITHOUT DELAY.
SO YOU'RE NOT LATE FOR SCHOOL DISMISSAL TIME.


I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE TIME, KEI-SAN.
I'M SORRY I WAS APPROACHING YOU SO PERSISTENTLY.
WHEN I CALLED A FEW DAYS AGO, A CHILD PICKED UP THE PHONE.
EXCUSE ME?
SCHOOL DISMISSAL TIME?

WAIT A SECOND!
WAI...
AS FOR THE FIRST PART...
AH!
ACTUALLY...
EH?

AND THAT'S WHY I CLEARLY TOLD YOU THAT OUR MEETING WOULD BE UNRELATED TO WORK.
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.
IF IT'S NOT WORK-RELATED, THEN WHAT IS IT?
A DATE?
AH, I SAID IT!
THE REASON WHY I PASSED UP YOUR OFFERS WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BLUR THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN WORK AND MY PRIVATE LIFE AND NOT BECAUSE I HAVE A CHILD!!
THOUGH, OF COURSE THAT IS AN ISSUE WHEN IT COMES TO THAT.


WHEN I GOT TO MEET YOU AGAIN, I WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT YOUR THE SMILE ON YOUR FACE HAD NOT CHANGED ONE BIT OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.
YES.
AT LEAST ON MY PART.

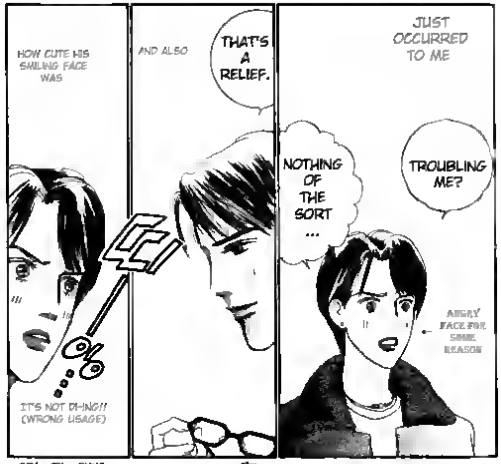
I'M CERTAIN THAT, EVEN NOW, I'M FEELING MORE AND MORE DRAWN TO YOU.
TAKING ALL OF THAT INTO CONSIDERATION,
HOWEVER, UPON DISCOVERING THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR DAUGHTER, IT MADE ME RECONSIDER HOW LONG OF A TIME 10 YEARS REALLY IS.
JUST AS A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED FOR ME OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS,
I ASSUME A LOT HAS HAPPENED FOR KEI-SAN AS WELL.
IS IT TROUBLING YOU THAT I'M SAYING ALL THIS?

나코나코일기

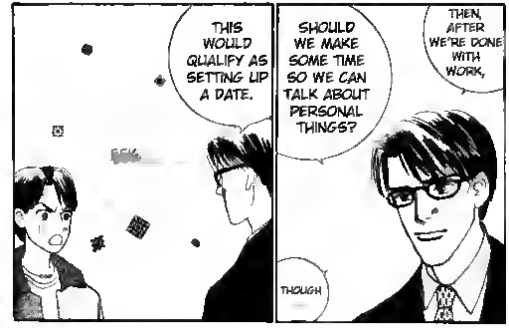
HTTP://FURINKAZAN.US/
HTTP://YAKUZA.ROCKS.IT/
#FURINKAZAN @ IRCHIGHWAY.NET
#YAKUZA @ IRCHIGHWAY.NET
TRANLATOR: SOHA
EDITS: SHINOBI_RU & SHADOWSITHE

JUST AS A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED FOR ME OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS,
TAKING ALL OF THAT INTO CONSIDERATION
I'M CERTAIN THAT, EVEN NOW, I'M FEELING MORE AND MORE DRAWN TO YOU!
I ASSUME A LOT HAS HAPPENED FOR KEI-SAN AS WELL.
THE FACT THAT PEOPLE WERE SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS
OF COURSE, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT HOWEVER YOU RESPOND TO ME WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON YOUR WORK.
IS IT TROUBLING YOU THAT I'M SAYING ALL OF THIS?
ON THE STREET ?

니코니코 일기 2


HOW CUTE HIS SMILING FACE WAS
AND ALSO
THAT'S A RELIEF.
JUST OCCURRED TO ME
NOTHING OF THE SORT ...
TROUBLING ME?
ANGRY FACE FOR SOME REASON
IT'S NOT DI-ING!! (WRONG USAGE)

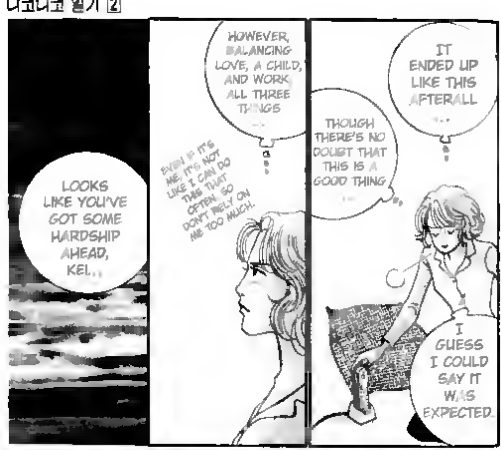
SFX. JIII—KUNG..


THIS WOULD QUALIFY AS SETTING UP A DATE.
SHOULD WE MAKE SOME TIME SO WE CAN TALK ABOUT PERSONAL THINGS?
THEN, AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH WORK,
THOUGH

WHY SO SPOOKY? (WEON) USAGI?
DECEMBER -12월-

ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT I WAS A COOL-HEADED WOMAN....
YEAH?!
BUT, IN THAT SITUATION, THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD HIDE MY TREMBLING.
SIGH...
WHAT'S WITH THE CAREFREE "SIGH"?!
THAT GUY'S NICK-NAME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
"OLD MAID KILLER"
THANKS, KANJIKO. I WON'T FORGET THIS!
SORRY TO ASK, BUT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TAKE MY PLACE AND FIX DINNER?
ALRIGHT. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AND DUE RIGHT BESIDES, AWAY, YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DATE IN 2 YEARS.
SO ANYWAY, AFTER TALKING ABOUT THIS-AND-THAT, WE ENDED UP SETTING UP A DATE...
TREMBLING OR WHAT NOT, IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE START THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

YES. I ASKED AN ILLUSTRATOR FRIEND OF MINE, WHO LIVES NEARBY, FOR THE FAVOR.
WILL THE CHILD BE ALRIGHT?
LOOKS LIKE I MADE YOU WAIT.
N-NOT AT ALL.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TOO EARLY FOR DINNER.
SHEESH, IT LOOKS LIKE A SALARYMAN AND BUM GAY COUPLE.
I SHOULD'VE JUST STUCK WITH MY FIRST PICK, AND LOOKED NICE TODAY...


LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME HARDSHIP AHEAD, KEL..
EVEN IF IT'S ME, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO THIS THAT OFTEN. SO DON'T RELY ON ME TOO MUCH.
HOWEVER, BALANCING LOVE, A CHILD, AND WORK ALL THREE THINGS...
THOUGH THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS A GOOD THING...
IT ENDED UP LIKE THIS AFTERALL...
I GUESS I COULD SAY IT WAS EXPECTED

I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD ASK SANTA CLAUS FOR THIS YEAR...
YEAH
IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS

HE CAME TO OUR HOUSE TOO!
HE DID UP TO LAST YEAR.
I BELIEVED IN HIM TOO...
I WAS SO YOUNG...
HE GAVE ME A TARE RACCOON PENCIL CASE!
YOU SAID THAT SANTA CLAUS STOPPED BY YOUR HOUSE EACH YEAR, MEGUMI.
HUH? WHY?!
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE SANTA CLAUSE EXISTS, NICO?
GASP
I SAW IT. WHILE I WAS PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP.
I WAS ABLE TO TELL RIGHT AWAY BECAUSE OF HIS BALD HEAD.
AND... IT TURNED OUT TO BE MY DAD...
WELL ...
I DIDN'T, BUT ...
THEN, DID YOU SEE SANTA'S FACE?

YES ...
IT'S ME.
KANAKO-ONEE-SAN.
OPEN THE DOOR.

SFX. Ding Dong

WHAT'S WRONG? NICO...
DID YOU CRY?
EYES ARE SWOLLEN
MEGUMI SAID ..

SFX OPEN

IS THAT ALL?
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, DON'T WORRY.
MEGUMI SAYS THERE'S NO SANTA CLAUS.
BUT I GOT A PRESENT FROM SANTA FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST YEAR.
BECAUSE SANTA ONLY VISITS KIDS WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.
HE MAY NOT VISIT MEGUMI ANYMORE, BUT HE WILL VISIT YOU.
REALLY?
AS PROOF, EVEN AN ADULT LIKE ME BELIEVES IT. SINCE THAT MAN STILL VISITS ME AS WELL...
OF COURSE
AH....
THAT MAN

DO YOU FEEL A BIT BETTER?
HOW ABOUT NOW?
HUH ...
RELAXING IN HIS HOUSE, YOU'RE JUST A BIT MUCH, AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT
WHA...
A LINT REMOVER!
WHAT DID YOU RECEIVE LAST YEAR?
AN EARPICK!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK FOR THIS YEAR?
SO,
THE CHILD OF AN ACQUAIN-TANCE?
BECAUSE OF CERTAIN CIRCUM-STANCES,
I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHAT WAS GOING ON...

IT MUST BE HARD ON YOU, WITH WORK AND ALL.
NOT AT ALL, SHE'S ALREADY IN 4TH GRADE AND SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A WELL-BEHAVED CHILD.
THEN, AT CHRISTMAS ....
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT TO HAVE A DATE?

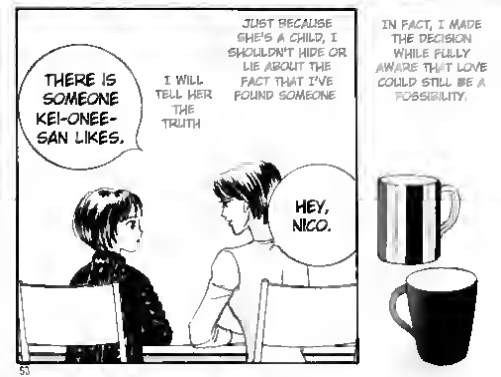
YES.
WHAT A RELIEF...

I'M OKAY. I WANT TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
NICO, YOU SHOULD HEAD TO BED.
KEI-ONEE-SAN'S LATE TODAY...
AH!
NO WAY. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN SHE'LL BE BACK.
HERE, A PRESENT FOR YOU!
WOW.
WELCOME BACK, KEI-ONEE-SAN!
I'M HOME!

KANAKO!
BYE!
I GUESS I'LL GO BYE, THEN NICO.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR MEETING WENT WELL?
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR KANAKO TOO. WINE.
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP TODAY.
THANKS TO YOU.
NICO, I MEAN.
DO WHAT?
I'M SORRY! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THIS AGAIN ON THE 24TH?
HM?

INSTEAD OF ME...
YOU SHOULD ASK NICO.
SIGH...
KEI-ONEE-SAN

I'VE NEVER SAID I'D GIVE UP ON LOVE AFTER TAKING IN THIS CHILD.
I...
AH...
WELL...
ASK ME WHAT?


IN FACT, I MADE THE DECISION WHILE FULLY AWARE THAT LOVE COULD STILL BE A POSSIBILITY.
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A CHILD, I SHOULDN'T HIDE OR LIE ABOUT THE FACT THAT I'VE FOUND SOMEONE
I WILL TELL HER THE TRUTH
THERE IS SOMEONE KEI-ONEE-SAN LIKES.
HEY, NICO.

HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A PARTY ON EVE-EVE INSTEAD?
MORE OVER,
I'VE AGREED TO GO ON A DATE WITH HIM ON CHRISTMAS EVE...
DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE
THE 23RD.
EVE-EVE?
ALRIGHT
OKAY
EVE EVE!

IT HURTS, ONE-SAN
KYAA~!
WHAT A RELIEF.
BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE A GREAT TIME ON EVE-EVE!
I'M SORRY, NICO.
SO NICO CONSENTED?
IT FIGURES, SINCE THAT CHILD'S PROBABLY USED TO SITUATIONS LIKE THIS WITH HER MOM
YEP.

SFX: I don't have plans!
AND IT WOULD BE TOO CRUEL OF ME TO TELL YOU TO JUST PUT ON HOLD THE LOVE THAT'S BACK IN YOUR LIFE, AFTER SO LONG....
BESIDES, I TOLD YOU I WOULD HELP YOU OUT WHEN YOU FIRST TOOK IN THAT CHILD.
SFX: Sigh
FINE. I'LL LET HER SLEEP OVER AT MY HOUSE ON THE 24TH.
WHAT?
MAKING HER HOUSE-SIT ALONE ON CHRISTMAS EVE WOULD SEEM PITIFUL.
OH!...
I'M SORRY....
JUST SO YOU KNOW, THIS IS ONLY A SPECIAL CASE.
BUT....
YEAH I'M IN THE TUB.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR VOICE IS REALLY ECHOING...

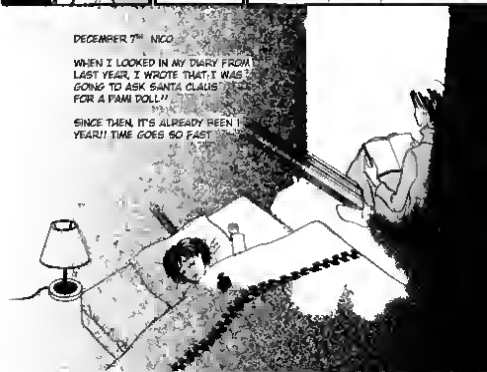
NO, IT COULDN'T BE .
SIGH...
WHAT IS SHE PLANNING TO DO ABOUT NICO?
LOOKING AT THE PRESENT SITUATION, WE CAN'T RULE THIS POSSIBILITY OUT.
WHAT IF
WHAT IF, BY SOME CHANCE, KEI ENDS UP GETTING MARRIED

BAI BAI.
LATER, NICO.

Nico, it looks like I'm going to be late because of my meeting, so heat this up for 2 minutes and eat it!
Kei
Snack in the fridge
Make sure you lock the door!
DING
DING
SFX: DING!
SFX: Munch Munch Munch

OPEN
I'M SO LATE
I WONDER IF NICO WENT TO BED ALRIGHT
SFX: Vroooom
HOPE YOU GET HOME SAFELY.
TAKE CARE.
ZZZ

EXCHANGE DIARY...
Z Z
WHAT ON EARTH...
SHE FELL ASLEEP HERE, WHEN THE HEAT'S ON IN THE ROOM?
WHAT WOULD WE DO IF SHE CAUGHT A COLD...


DECEMBER 7TH NICO
WHEN I LOOKED IN MY DIARY FROM LAST YEAR, I WROTE THAT I WAS GOING TO ASK SANTA CLAUS FOR A FAMI DOLL!!
SINCE THEN, IT'S ALREADY BEEN 1 YEAR!! TIME GOES SO FAST

DECEMBER 8TH NICO

KEI-ONEE-SAN IS IN A GOOD MOOD THESE DAYS BECAUSE SHE IS DATING NOW... BUT!!

ONNE-SAN IS FORGETTING ABOUT THE DIARY. IT'S ALREADY THE 3RD DAY OF JUST ME WRITING SO YOU KNOW THIS, ONEE-SAN--?!

THERE'S PROBABLY NO OTHER EXCHANGE DIARY LIKE OURS IN THIS ENTIRE WORLD WHERE ONE PERSON TOTALLY NEGLECTS TO WRITE IN IT... HMPH! HMPH!

DECEMBER 9TH NICO

I WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED TODAY BECAUSE WE WON'T BE HAVING A PARTY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

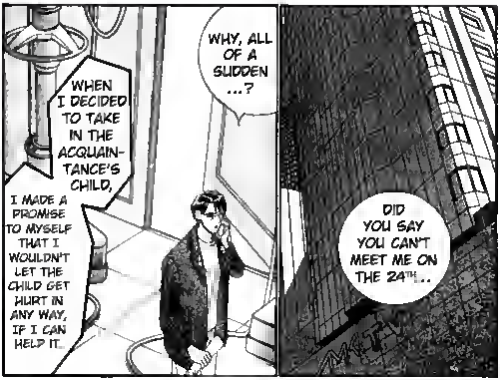
THOUGH EVE-EVE IS OKAY CHRISTMAS EVE WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER BECAUSE THAT IS THE NIGHT THAT SANTA CLAUS COMES.

DECEMBER 10TH NICO

DOES SANTA CLAUS REALLY EXIST? I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF MEGUMI MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT HIM NOT EXISTING...

WELL, SINCE I'VE ONLY GOTTEN A GIFT FROM HIM ONCE, AND NICO'S WISH THIS YEAR IS THAT "I CAN STAY WITH KEI-ONEE-SAN FOREVER."

BUT I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY TO ASK HIM FOR SOMETHING THAT'S NOT A TOY?

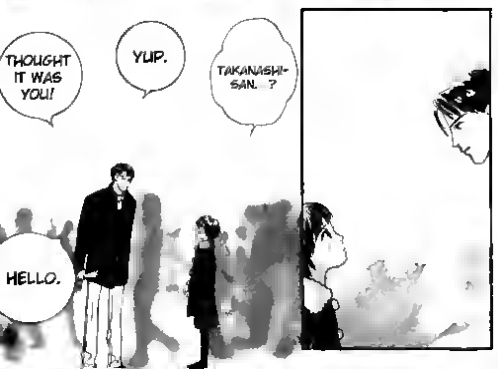

WHEN I DECIDED TO TAKE IN THE ACQUAINTANCE'S CHILD,
I MADE A PROMISE TO MYSELF THAT I WOULDN'T LET THE CHILD GET HURT IN ANY WAY, IF I CAN HELP IT.
WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?
DID YOU SAY YOU CAN'T MEET ME ON THE 24TH...
BECAUSE THAT CHILD GREW UP, NEVER EXPERIENCING LOVE FROM HER MOTHER AND HAS BEEN SCARRED UP TO NOW...
AND I HAD DECIDED THEN THAT SO LONG AS THAT CHILD NEEDS ME,
I WON'T BETRAY HER.

SINCE WE'RE ADULTS, WE'VE HAD OUR OWN FAIR SHARES OF SPECIAL DAYS UP TO NOW
AND WE ADULTS COULD EASILY CREATE DAYS LIKE THAT AT ANY TIME... BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FOR A CHILD, ISN'T IT?
BUT IT'S ALSO A SPECIAL DAY FOR THAT CHILD.
I'D BEEN THINKING
THAT THE 24TH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN A VERY SPECIAL DAY FOR YOU AND ME.
I WOULD LIKE TO MEET THIS CHILD, WHO YOU SEEM TO BE COMPLETELY ENGROSSED IN.
CAN I MEET HER SOME TIME?

HUH?
THE EVE-EVE PARTY IS CANCELLED?!
YUP. WE'LL HAVE IT ON CHRISTMAS EVE INSTEAD
ON CHRISTMAS EVE?
YOU, ME, AND TAKANASHI-SAN. LET'S GO WATCH A MOVIE TOGETHER, THE THREE OF US
AND AT NIGHT, WE'LL ALL HAVE A PARTY TOGETHER.
SANTA CLAUS IS INDEED GREAT, MEGUMI
NO THIS HAS TO BE THE WORK OF GOD
Eh?
Q

NICO?

Japanese Theatre
Azumi-Kaze Takamoochi
PLAYS!!


THOUGHT IT WAS YOU!
YUP.
TAKANASHI-SAN...?
HELLO.

HELLO...
WHY DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET YOU?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU?
WHERE'S KEI?
SINCE SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE LATE, SHE SAID SHE'D GO CHECK THE STATION LOBBY REALLY QUICK.
SHE LEFT HER CELL PHONE AT HOME
AH.
GEEZ, YOU WERE HERE ALL ALONG!

A...ARA..?

SOMEHOW...
ODDLY ENOUGH...
THOSE TWO...

HAVE AN AIR OF RESEMBLANCE...?!

HTTP://FURINKAZAN.US/
HTTP://YAKUZA.ROCKS.IT/
#FURINKAZAN @ IRCHIGHWAY.NET
#YAKUZA @ IRCHIGHWAY.NET
TRANLATOR: SONA
EDIT: SHINOBI_RU

니코니코일기

I STOOD THERE MUTELY, WITH MY EYES WIDE OPEN
AMIDST THE SURGING CHRISTMAS EVE CROWD

THE EXPRESSIONS
THEIR POSTURES.
PERHAPS I'M SENSING SOME SORT OF RESEMBLANCE?
SEEING NICO AND TAKANASHI-SAN STANDING SIDE-BY-SIDE LIKE THAT,
NO, NO I SHOULDN'T
I SHOULDN'T FOSTER THESE BASELESS IDEAS WHEN I JUST STARTED DATING AGAIN...
KEI-ONEE-SAN, COME QUICK.
ALMOST LIKE FATHER AND DAUGHTER...
REALLY?
AH KEI-ONEE-SAN!

BUT
AND I COULD SEE "NICO" WRITTEN ON HER FACE.
HUH? HOW?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WOULD WORK OUT PERFECTLY IF TAKANASHI-SAN SOMEHOW TURNED OUT TO BE NICO'S FATHER.
COURSE OF
YOU GUYS MANAGED TO FIND EACH OTHER. WHEN IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE MET.
YUP. SINCE NICO WAS STANDING BY HERSELF..
IT SAYS "NI" ON THIS CHEEK.
THOUGH IN REALITY THINGS TYPICALLY DON'T WORK OUT THAT SMOOTH.
BUT, BUT!
AND "CO" ON THIS CHEEK.
YEAH RIGHT!
BUT WHAT IS THIS FEELING...?

2 ADULTS, 1 CHILD
THE INVISIBLE ATTRACTION OF SHARED BLOOD?!
AND YOU, NICO! YOU SHOULD BE SHYER! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THIS MAN HAD BEEN DISGUISED AS KOUTARO?
I HAD TO PUT IN SO MUCH EFFORT TO GET NICO TO OPEN UP TO ME! SO UNFAIR! TAKANASHI KOUTARO!
MAYBE, THIS IS A CASE OF THAT ONE SAYING.
THESE BASE-LESS WHAT-IFS.
Kei, once-kun Hurry—
TAKANASHI KOUTARO
THESE
The eternal brilliance of a diamond.
MAKING MYSELF FEEL GUILTY GEEZ.

SFX: Thump Thump

SFX: 니코 니코

But to think that a successful actress like Mifuyu, who wouldn't have even noticed someone out of her league,

Would even consider having a relationship with a then rookie AD, no matter how brief, seems totally inconceivable.

Since both Takanashi Kaotaro and Shino Mifuyu were working in the same industry, they had to have seen one another from time to time.

Yet I keep thinking about this.

And most importantly, I doubt his taste in women would've been that bad(?).

I MISSED THE WHOLE THING.
HM?
AH. YES.
IT WAS SO FUN!
I guess I'm feeling nostalgic this time for some
AT ANY RATE ENOUGH OF THESE SPECULATIONS.
SHOULD WE GO HAVE TEA?
Restaurant
BECAUSE TODAY,
IS CHRISTMAS EVE

YEAH.
THEN I WANT TO HAVE A PARFAIT.
ISN'T THAT THE SAME THING?
IT'S OKAY, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE AT DINNER TIME A BIG ONE
CAN I HAVE CAKE?
WE INVITED KANAKO AND AGREED TO HAVE A PARTY, DIDN'T WE?

I WANT COFFEE.
GOT IT.

KOU-OJISAN?
IT'S AWKWARD TO CALL ME TAKANASHI-SAN, ISN'T IT? IT'S PRONOUNCED JUST LIKE KEI-ONEESAN'S LAST NAME TOO
SINCE MY NAME IS KOUTAROU, YOU CAN YOU JUST CALL ME KOU-OJISAN.
OKAY.
EARLIER
YOU WEARING GLASSES DURING THE MOVIE. .
TA...
TAKA-NASHI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE BAD VISION?
AS FOR MY EYES, THEY GOT BAD BECAUSE I WAS WORKING IN THE TV INDUSTRY AS A GROWN-UP
I DO WEAR CONTACTS, BUT SINCE I DAMAGED A THING CALLED THE CORNEA ON THE SURFACE OF MY EYES, I WEAR GLASSES THESE DAYS TOO.
HMM...
YOU WORK IN THE TV INDUSTRY?
YES, I DO.
DID IT HURT?

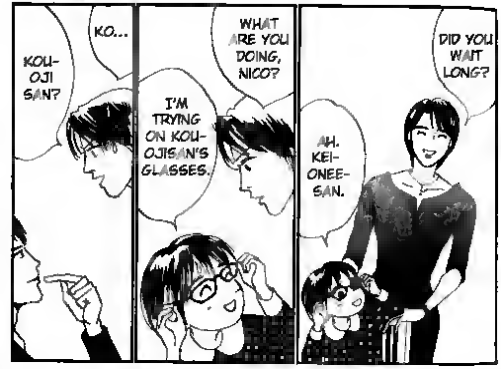
I LIKE HER THE MOST..
YUP.
YOU SEEM TO REALLY LIKE KEI-ONEE-SAN
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE OKAY? CORNEA .
SHE NORMALLY JUST WEARS CONTACTS
KEI-ONEE-SAN WEARS GLASSES SOMETIMES TOO WHEN SHE WORKS, BUT
A LITTLE
IT'S ALL BETTER NOW.
WE'RE THE SAME
I LIKE HER THE MOST TOO.
HOW ABOUT YOU, KOU-OJISAN ?

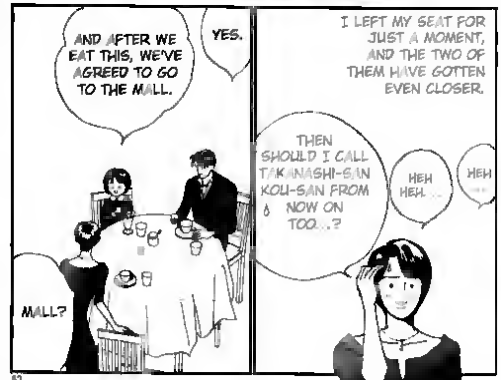
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE LIGHTENED MY HAIR COLOR A BIT.
GRR- THE SPOTS UNDER MY EYES. .
TOILET
OH YEAH!
DID YOU BRING A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO GIVE TO ONE-SAN?
YUP.
SINCE IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, AND I HEARD THERE WAS GOING TO BE A PARTY.
I BROUGHT BOTH KEI-ONEESAN'S GIFT AND YOURS AS WELL.

OH NO...
I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING FOR YOU THOUGH.
THAT'S OKAY. I PUSHED MYSELF ON YOU GUYS SUDDENLY ANYHOW.
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GIVE HER A CARD LAST YEAR.
BUT I WAS GOING TO GET HER SOMETHING FOR SURE THIS YEAR.
EVERY TIME I GO SHOPPING, I'M WITH ONEE-SAN...
SO I COULDN'T BUY HER GIFT YET.
BUT I DIDN'T BUY KEI-ONEESAN'S GIFT YET EITHER.
sPY Jinsie
DO YOU HAVE MONEY?
YES, I BROUGHT IT WITH ME.
ALTO-GETHER, I HAVE 782 YEN.
I NORMALLY GET 500 YEN FOR MY MONTHLY ALLOWANCE.
BUT I USUALLY SPEND IT ON COMIC MAGAZINES, THIS IS WHAT I HAVE LEFT
sPY Heavy

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: 782 YEN AMOUNTS TO ROUGHLY $7 USD

WELL, WHEN I WANT THOSE ONEESAN'S ALWAYS WITH ME
BESIDES, THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW TIMES WHEN I SPENT ALL MY MONEY ON CANDY.
IF I WERE YOUR AGE, I DEFINITELY WOULD'VE SPENT IT ALL ON TOYS AND VIDEO GAMES
HOW PRAISE-WORTHY
Oh ho ho...
SPY
Ah hah hah
HMM ..
MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET HER PRESENT TODAY?
IT'S STILL ADMIRABLE
SPY
SNAP


KOU-OJI SAN?
KO...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NICO?
I'M TRYING ON KOU-OJISAN'S GLASSES.
AH. KEI-ONEE-SAN.
DID YOU WAIT LONG?


AND AFTER WE EAT THIS, WE'VE AGREED TO GO TO THE MALL.
YES.
MALL?
I LEFT MY SEAT FOR JUST A MOMENT, AND THE TWO OF THEM HAVE GOTTEN EVEN CLOSER.
THEN SHOULD I CALL TAKANASHI-SAN KOU-SAN FROM NOW ON TOO...?
HEH HEH...
HEH...

WE STILL HAVE SOME STUFF TO BUY FOR THE PARTY, DON'T WE?
NO, WE GOT EVERYTHING YESTERDAY. AT THE SHOPPING CENTER NEAR THE STATION.
SORRY... IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE TO STOP THERE
YOU DO, TA... KOU-SAN ...?
IT'S NOT TAKO-SAN.
Oh, ah ha ha ha
SINCE WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO GINZA, IT WOULDN'T HURT TO LOOK AROUND
ALRIGHT.
I'M FINE WITH GOING, THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF I'M FEELING ENTIRELY UP FOR IT.

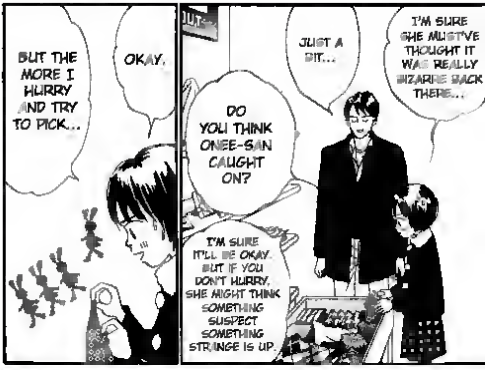
ALMOST TOO FAVORABLE
STILL I ADMIT THEIR BONDING IS A AVORABLE DEVELOPMENT
I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM REAL QUICK.
WHAT?
AH! ME TOO!
YOU CAN GO UP FIRST AND WAIT FOR US, KEI-ONEE-SAN.

BUT

BUT

AND HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS LIVING WITH NICO UNTIL JUST RECENTLY
A GUY WHO LIKES LITTLE KIDS WOULD NEVER HAVE PROACTIVELY APPROACHED ME AS HE DID
SOMEHOW THIS PART DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT ?!
DON'T TELL ME TAKAMASHI KOUTARO'S GOT A LURKING LOLITA COMPLEX!
NO WAY!!
WHEW
HOW PATHETIC OF ME
THIS IS AN INSULT TO HIM.
AT ANY RATE, THEY'RE A TROUBLE-SOME LOT!
Going down right away.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED I'LL JUST WAIT FOR THEM BY THE BATHROOM!
돈두껀
*500~

SIGH. HANDKERCHIEFS


BUT THE MORE I HURRY AND TRY TO PICK...
OKAY.
DO YOU THINK ONEE-SAN CAUGHT ON?
I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY. BUT IF YOU DON'T HURRY, SHE MIGHT THINK SOMETHING SUSPECT. SOMETHING STRANGE IS UP.
JUST A BIT...
I'M SURE SHE MUST'VE THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY BIZARRE BACK THERE...

WHAT SHOULD I DO??!
THE HARDER IT IS FOR ME TO PICK SOME-THING.

spry
spry
spry
creak —
click —
spray —
Hm?
Hm?
Uh?

TAKAHASHI-SAN'S NOT HERE EITHER.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN 10 MINUTES!
BUT NICO'S NOT HERE!
EVERYONE'S COME OUT NOW
MAYBE THEY WENT UPSTAIRS TO FIND ME SOON AFTER?
BECAUSE I WASN'T WAITING THERE,
COULD THEY BE LOOKING FOR ME NOW?!
THEY'RE NOT HERE EITHER!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE MOVED FROM WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET THEM.
IT'S BEEN 20 MINUTES NOW...
ONE MORE ROUND
I'LL DO ONE MORE ROUND DOWN-STAIRS.
HOWEVER...
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T WORRY SINCE TAKANASHI-SAN IS WITH HER.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S WITH HER.
MAYBE THEY WERE DRAWN INTO A TOY STORE OR SOMETHING?
BECAUSE IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL KNOCK THEM BOTH OUT!

FOUND THEM!
YOU DID IT!
BETWEEN THESE TWO, WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BETTER?
HMM .....
NICO, WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET GOING, OR ONEE-SAN'S GOING TO BE WORRYING.
I WONDER IF MY PRESENT IS GOING TO BE OKAY...
I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY.
(PROBABLY)
RE-REALLY?
BUT I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNLESS I KNOW SHE'LL REALLY LIKE IT.
REGARDLESS OF WHICH ONE YOU PICK, IF IT'S A PRESENT FROM YOU, KEI-ONEE-SAN WILL BE HAPPY
BECAUSE ANYTHING ONEE-SAN DOESN'T NEED, SHE SENDS TO THE RECYCLE CENTER RIGHT AWAY.

I'M NOT USED TO GOING INTO A STORE AND BUYING THINGS ON MY OWN YET.
ACTUALLY, I WAS PLANNING TO USE IT FOR HER BIRTHDAY GIFT...
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE THEN EITHER...
SO INSTEAD, I JUST DREW A PORTRAIT FOR HER AND MASSAGED HER SHOULDERS
AFTERALL, SINCE LAST CHRISTMAS,
ON AND OFF
YOU SAVED UP YOUR LEFTOVER ALLOWANCE TO BUY KEI-ONEE-SAN A GIFT, RIGHT?
NICO
VERY VERY, BUT
MORE IMPORTANTLY, TODAY'S GIFT!
YUP, SO I DECIDED THAT, AT CHRISTMAS, I'D GET HER SOMETHING FOR SURE...
I SEE.
YES, VERY.
MUST HAVE BEEN NICE. I BET KEI-ONEE-SAN WAS VERY HAPPY.

KEI-ONEE-SAN!
THE BATHROOM WAS FULL, SO...
SORRY SO LATE.

NO PROBLEM.
I WAS LOOKING AT CLOTHES.
DIDN'T YOU HAVE BUSINESS HERE, KOU-SAN?
AH... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT SOME OTHER TIME...
REALLY?
THEN LET'S HEAD HOME!

BY THE TIME WE
GOT OUTSIDE IT WAS
ALREADY EVENING AND

AND THE SIGHT OF CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS LINING THE STREETS
WAS BREATHTAKING

THOUGH I COULD SEE MY OWN BREATH IN THE COLD AIR, I FELT WARM INSIDE
THE THREE OF US WALKED SIDE BY SIDE AND HAND IN HAND
AND I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS RATHER NICE

SFX SNAP
ANT CAMERA
TOOK PICTURES
IRONT OF
찰칵
I'M GONNA PRESS IT.
찰칵
SFX SNAP

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE ONE OF THE THREE OF YOU?

ナカヨク

CH --
PRESS-ING IT NOW.

NICO!
AH.
THANK YOU, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

CHEESE!
SFX: SNAP
SFX: SNAP
THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM.
YOU ARE A LOVELY FAMILY
BOTH MOTHER AND FATHER ARE TALL.
AND YOUR DAUGHTER IS SO ADORABLE

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT.
WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOU'LL DEFINITELY LOOK LIKE A MODEL.
I SUPPOSE THAT CAN BE EXPECTED.
I GUESS WE LOOKED LIKE A FAMILY.

AND THEN W MET UP WITH KANAKO
AND THIS IS LIZIIE KANAKO, WHO IS AN ILLUSTRATOR AND LIVES NEARBY.
THIS IS TAKANASHI KOUTAROU-SAN.

(*) "-SAN" YOU MEAN

KUP RDERF TH

SFX BUMP

NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

Merry Christmas!
SAT AROUND THE TABLE AND MADE A TOAST,
WE
SFX Beep
SFX 찰칵
SNAP
BIRTH OF CHRIST
2 HOURS LATER
AND WE CELEBRATED THE BLESSED
CHANGED CLOTHES, EVEN SHOWERED

THANK YOU, NICO. I'M SO HAPPY.
I'LL USE IT WITH CARE.
WHEN THE TIME CAME I WAS OVERCOME WITH EMOTIONS
I WAS PLANNING ON ACTING TOTALLY SHOCKED, BUT
ONEE-SAN, HERE'S A PRESENT FOR YOU.
KEI-ONEE-SAN.
WE HAVE TO END THE PARTY NOW.
SANTA CLAUS IS GOING TO BE HERE SOON.
AND SHE GAVE KANAKO WHAT I GOT LAST YEAR. A PORTRAIT AND A HANDMADE CARD
ISN'T THIS A MANGA CHARACTER?
THANK YOU IT'S PRETTY.

I WILL. BYE, ONEE-SAN.
SEE YA SWEET DREAMS, NICO.
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
IF I DON'T CLEAN UP QUICKLY, SANTA CLAUS WILL BE SHOCKED WHEN HE GETS HERE.
I'LL CALL A TAXI.
I'LL BE FINE. I'M USED TO WALKING HOME FROM HERE ANYWAY.
I STILL HAVE WORK LEFT TO DO AT HOME!
WOW, IT'S ALREADY MIDNIGHT.
DON'T WORRY. BECAUSE IT'S THE SAME AT EVERY HOUSE.
LL AFTER A PARTY
AND BESIDES, HASN'T YOUR WISH FOR THIS YEAR ALREADY COME TO PASS?
BUT HE MAY STOP BY ANYWAY!
AU NOVO SEND A PRESENT WHILE WE'RE AT IT?

YES
A VERY GOOD CHILD
YUP. FOR NOW SHE DOES
SHE'S PRETTY SURE OF IT, DESPITE HER CLASSMATES SUGGESTING OTHERWISE...
ISN'T SHE A GOOD KID?
I GUESS NICO STILL BELIEVES IN SANTA CLAUS?
IS THAT SO?
I'LL GO AND SEE THEM OFF.
O%!

SFX: HA HA HA

SHE'S PRACTICALLY A CHILD INSIDE, WHILE BEING AN ADULT ON THE OUTSIDE
STILL, PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF KEI KOU-SAN
OF OF OF
WHAT?
Unsettling
AFTER I WORKED SO HARD LITTLE BY LITTLE, TO PAVE A ROAD, HE PRACTICALLY SPED RIGHT THROUGH WITH A SPORTS CAR.
HM. I WONDER ABOUT THAT KANAKO. DO YOU KNOW HOW EASILY THESE TWO BECAME BUDDIES?
IT WAS PRETTY UPSETTING THE MORE I THINK OF IT.

I'M OFF.
I HAD A GREAT TIME TONIGHT. SEE YA.
BYE
BE CARE-FUL.
I WILL.
SEEMS LIKE A GREAT FRIEND.
YES DEFINITELY.
IF YOU CAN, PLEASE CAN AN EYE OUT FOR ANYONE YOU THINK MIGHT GO WELL WITH KANAKO.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK KANAKO-SAN MAY NOT LIKE THAT?
HE KNOWS WELL.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
SHE'S GOT SO MUCH PRIDE
AND DESPITE LOOKING SO FEMININE, SHE'S A PRETTY TOUGH PERSON. SHE'S VERY STRONG. SHE'S THE TYPE WHO IS MUCH DIFFERENT ON THE INSIDE FROM HER OUTWARD APPEARANCE

IT MAY SOUND COMMON-PLACE, BUT I'M HAPPY TO THE POINT OF FEARING
YES
AND ARE YOU HAPPY...?
AND SINCE WE SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING HARD TO MAKE IT ON OUR OWN, I WISH TO SEE KANAKO FIND HAPPINESS JUST LIKE MINE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
THOUGH THAT PROBABLY TELL ME TO MIND MY OWN BUSINESS
AH...
ME TOO
I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL WE WERE ALONE
OH YEAH, YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT ALTO-GETHER
YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME THEN.
THAT'S A RELIEF

BY SOME COINCIDENCE
AH
HERE.
MERRY CHRIST-MAS..
IN ANY CASE
THANK YOU..
I PRAYED
WE BOTH GOT WRIST WATCHES
A WATCH

THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY, JUST LIKE THIS
PLEASE, TAXI. PLEASE DON'T COME RIGHT NOW
THAT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE.
A SPECIAL NIGHT...
IF I DON'T HURRY AND GET TO BED SOON, I'LL END UP MEETING SANTA!
Panic!
AH! IT'S ALREADY MIDNIGHT!

HTTP://FURINKAZAN.US/
HTTP://YAKUZA.ROCKS.IT/
#FURINKAZAN @ IRCHIGHWAY.NET
#YAKUZA @ IRCHIGHWAY.NET
TRANLATOR: SONA
EDIT: SHINOBI_RU

Angels who sing on the street,
About the gloominess of rainy days and Mondays,
About the fool on the hill,
About everyday love and romance,
A familiar-sounding song
In which no one can recite.

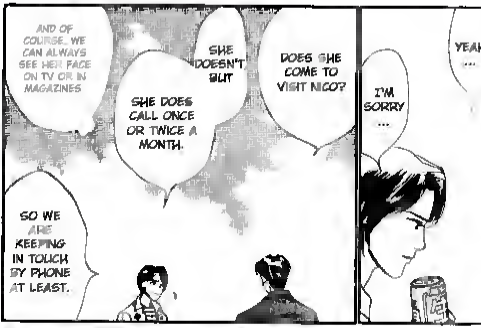
Though no one stops to listen
The notes continue to flow
From the shoes of an exhausted salesman
From the swishing collars of the lovers who have been embracing
And from the bicycle, caught on the hem of a vagrant's

Torn Garment,
The sleepless night
Has no musical score.

Not that I'm suggesting anything in particular
By all this...

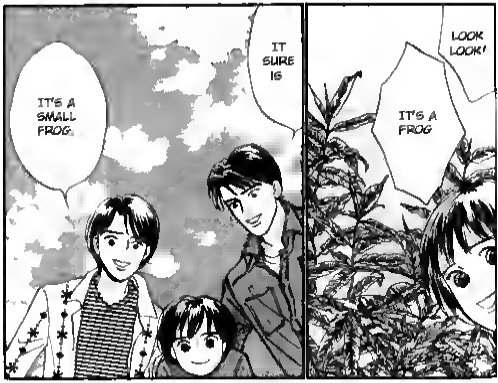
IT'S ALREADY BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS SINCE THAT CHRISTMAS
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HAVE BLOOMED AND IT'S SPRING ALL OVER.
THEY SEEM TO BE TAKING NICO AND GOING ON PROMOS
KEI AND TAKANASHI KOUTAROU SEEM TO BE DOING QUITE WELL DESPITE THE OCCASIONAL COLLISIONS AT WORK
IT'S A LOVELY SEASON...
AND IT'S THE OPTIMAL SEASON FOR UNITING WHEEL WITH INK

I ADMIRE KOUTARO-SAN FOR BEING SO OBLIGING AND NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SITUATION
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S SEEING A DIVORCED WOMAN, YET HE'S SO PATIENT WITH A WOMAN WHO WOULD BASICALLY BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING "BAGGAGE"
HOWEVER
I WONDER HOW LONG THEY CAN KEEP UP PLAYING FAMILY
I'D HATE TO SAY IT LIKE THIS, BUT
NICO'S A STRANGER'S CHILD AFTER-ALL, KEI
EVEN TO ME?
THOUGH I THINK I TOLD YOU THIS EARLIER.
THAT I CAN'T SAY BECAUSE I PROMISED HER MOTHER I WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
THOUGH I MAY HAVE ALREADY ASKED THIS EARLIER.
WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS NICO'S MOTHER?


AND OF COURSE.. WE CAN ALWAYS SEE HER FACE ON TV OR IN MAGAZINES
SHE DOESN'T BUT
SHE DOES CALL ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH.
DOES SHE COME TO VISIT NICO?
SO WE ARE KEEPING IN TOUCH BY PHONE AT LEAST.
YEAH ...
I'M SORRY ...

STILL, SHE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER CHILD UNDER YOUR CARE FOREVER, RIGHT?
I WONDER
I THINK HER MOM, AT LEAST, HAS NO WORRIES OVER THIS SITUATION.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN TOTALLY UNINTERESTED IN THINGS LIKE CHILD REARING
EVEN IF SHE MAY SEEM HAPPY OUTWARDLY
WOULDN'T SHE FEEL LONELY JUST COMMUNICATING OVER THE PHONE?

I CAN NEVER REPLACE HER MOTHER.
I'D PROBABLY JUST TAKE ON THE IMAGE OF FRIEND.
OR, COULD IT BE THAT
YOU ARE PLANNING TO ACT AS NICO'S MOTHER ALL THE WAY UP UNTIL SHE'S AN ADULT?
ONEE-SAN-.
ISN'T IT EVEN MORE CRUCIAL THAT YOU HAVE A FORMAL DISCUSSION WITH NICO'S MOTHER ABOUT WHAT LIES AHEAD IN THE FUTURE?
IF THAT'S THE CASE,



BY SOME CHANCE

OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.

OR SO I BELIEVE.

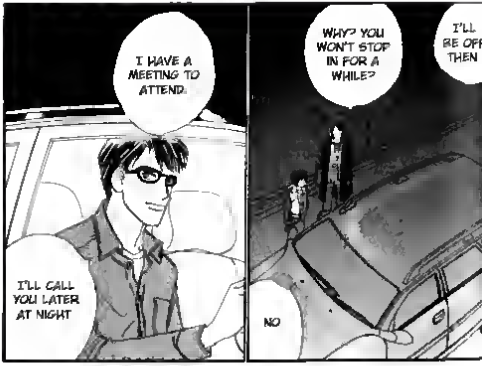
WHEN THE TIME COMES I DON'T THINK I COULD SAY "FAREWELL, NICO."

IF I WERE TO MARRY ONE DAY WHETHER IT BE HIM OR SOMEONE ELSE.

THEY SAY THAT PARTING IS INEVITABLE...

EVEN IF

AND RATHER THAN SENDING HER BACK TO LIVE WITH HER COLD MOTHER, I THINK THAT LIVING WITH A STRANGER LIKE ME IS PROBABLY BETTER FOR THIS CHILD



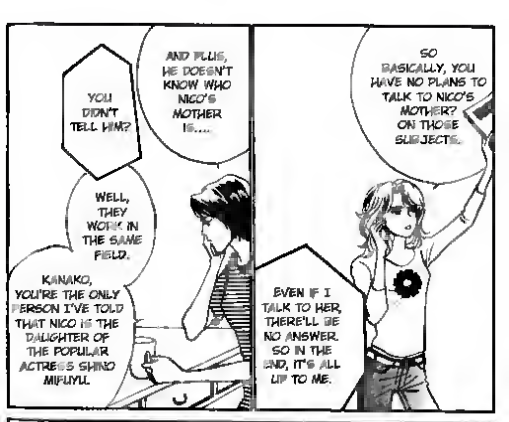
MAY END UP BEING EQUALLY PAINFUL AS IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED

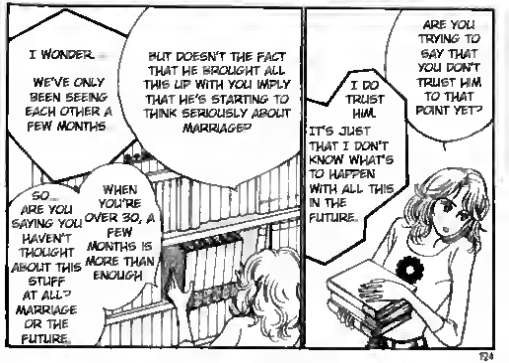
WE SAW ONE!
WE SAW A FROG
YEP.
AND WE EVEN SAW A LITTLE FROG.
YEAH.
AHH, IT WAS SUCH A BRILLIANT DAY!
GAZ!
BE---
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT
COME DANCE WITH ME, ONEE-SAN.
IT'S THE "SANPOPO" SONG. I RECORDED IT ON VIDEO A WHILE AGO
WHAT KIND OF POSE IS THAT?
ONEE-SAN, SINCE YOU'RE TALL, YOU CAN BE SAORI I'LL BE NAGO

IT'S ALREADY TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL..
STRING BREAK IS TOO SHORT
I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING FOR TOMORROW
TODAY'S THE LAST DAY OF YOUR SPRING BREAK YOU SHOULD BE GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW..
BECAUSE I'M A KID?
HOW DO YOU STILL HAVE ENERGY?
YOU WERE RUNNING AROUND ALL DAY TODAY
WAO!

Congrats!
THAT'S RIGHT.
EVEN BEGINNINGS!
STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL BE A 5TH GRADER!
ALL THINGS WILL ALWAYS COME TO AN END.
EVEN THE MOMENTS WHEN YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF...
Thanks!!

HMMM
.....

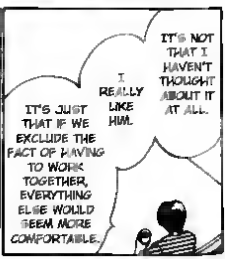

AND PLUS, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO NICO'S MOTHER IS....
YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM?
WELL, THEY WORK IN THE SAME FIELD.
KANAKO, YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I'VE TOLD THAT NICO IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE POPULAR ACTRESS SHINO MIFUYU.
SO BASICALLY, YOU HAVE NO PLANS TO TALK TO NICO'S MOTHER? ON THOSE SUBJECTS.
EVEN IF I TALK TO HER, THERE'LL BE NO ANSWER. SO IN THE END, IT'S ALL UP TO ME.


I WONDER... WE'VE ONLY BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER A FEW MONTHS.
BUT DOESN'T THE FACT THAT HE BROUGHT ALL THIS UP WITH YOU IMPLY THAT HE'S STARTING TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT MARRIAGE?
SO... ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THIS STUFF AT ALL? MARRIAGE OR THE FUTURE.
WHEN YOU'RE OVER 30, A FEW MONTHS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT YOU DON'T TRUST HIM TO THAT POINT YET?
I DO TRUST HIM. IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S TO HAPPEN WITH ALL THIS IN THE FUTURE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT HEALTH SURVEY,
I FORGOT TO ASK ONEE-SAN TO FILL IT OUT.

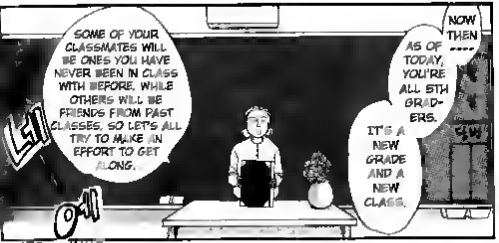
SFX: Suddenly
AH...
SFX: Roll Roll

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT TOO PASSIVE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS LIVED ON HER OWN FOR SO LONG AND THEN COMPLETELY THROWS HER OWN LIFESTYLE OUT IN ORDER TO ADOPT A NEW LIFE TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE ELSE?
ESPECIALLY IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN CAREER...
I AGREE
HOWEVER, AREN'T YOU ALREADY LIVING WITH A STRANGER....


IT'S NOT THAT I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT ALL.
I REALLY LIKE HIM.
IT'S JUST THAT IF WE EXCLUDE THE FACT OF HAVING TO WORK TOGETHER, EVERYTHING ELSE WOULD SEEM MORE COMFORTABLE.

AND I DO FEEL THAT IT'D BE GREAT TO HAVE A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM JUST LIKE THIS.

SHE'S ALREADY IN 5TH GRADE NOW... I THINK SHE WOULD FIGURE IT OUT EVEN WITHOUT ME TELLING HER.
SO YOU'LL BREAK IT TO HER IF AND WHEN THE TIME COMES?
SPY AND RUN
STILL, I JUST CAN'T TALK TO NICO
ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE FUTURE, BASED ON THESE LOOSE PREDICTIONS
AND THE FACT THAT OUR CURRENT LIFESTYLE WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO AN END
IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN JUST CANDIDLY SAY TO HER.
AS FOR NICO, THERE WAS NOTHING I CAN DO, GIVEN HER SITUATION...
WHAT? WAS THAT REALLY THE CASE?
ANYWAY, YOU'RE GOOD ONE, TAKUMI

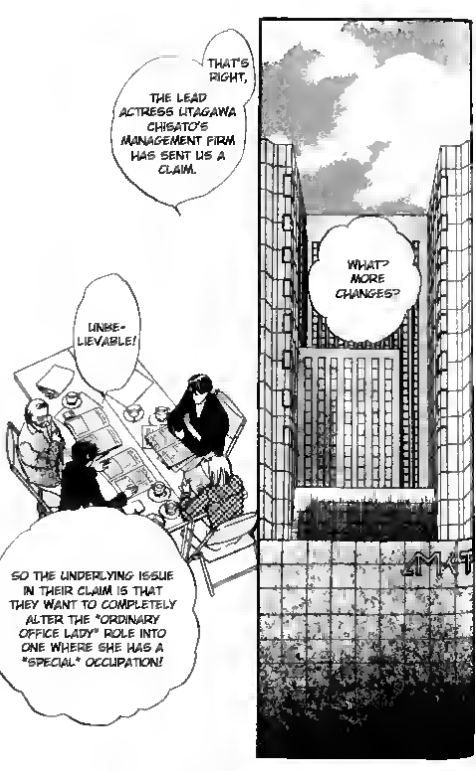

NOW THEN ----
AS OF TODAY, YOU'RE ALL 5TH GRADERS.
IT'S A NEW GRADE AND A NEW CLASS.
SOME OF YOUR CLASSMATES WILL BE ONES YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN CLASS WITH BEFORE. WHILE OTHERS WILL BE FRIENDS FROM PAST CLASSES. SO LET'S ALL TRY TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO GET ALONG.
YES --- MA'AM

YEAH.
GOOD THING THE TEACHER SEEMS LIKE A GENTLE PERSON.

I'M LIEMURA REMI.
JUST CALL ME REMI.
I'M NICO KOBAKO NICO.
I ALREADY KNOW
WHEN YOU FIRST TRANSFERRED HERE, I WENT WITH A FEW OTHERS TO JUST SEE WHO YOU WERE
SINCE THERE WERE RUMORS THAT YOU WERE CUTE
I WAS HOPING WE WOULD BE IN THE SAME CLASS

AH..
THANKS
THAT PENCIL CASE IS CUTE
IT'S THE TANUKI RACCOON
YOURS IS PRETTY TOO
I'M IN A DIFFERENT CLASS NOW THAN ALL MY BEST FRIENDS
AH, ME TOO!
THEN, WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?
YES!
OH THIS?
MY DAD BOUGHT IT FOR ME WHILE HE WAS IN PARIS
HMM
SINCE HE GOES ABROAD A LOT BECAUSE OF HIS JOB.
WOW... THAT'S SO COOL.
HOW ABOUT YOUR DAD?

SFX: Prickle
SFX: Surprise
WOW ----.
HE MAKES DRAMA AT A PRODUCTION STUDIO.
WHAT DOES HE DO?
AH.
PROB-ABLY...
DAD...
THAT'S AMAZING. THEN HAS HE EVER MET SUNSHINE GIRL?
PLEASE BE QUIET!
IN THE THIRD ROW.
YOU TWO!
WOW -- THAT'S TOTALLY AMAZ-ING!


THAT'S RIGHT,
THE LEAD ACTRESS UTAGAWA CHISATO'S MANAGEMENT FIRM HAS SENT US A CLAIM.
WHAT? MORE CHANGES?
UNBE-LIEVABLE!
SO THE UNDERLYING ISSUE IN THEIR CLAIM IS THAT THEY WANT TO COMPLETELY ALTER THE "ORDINARY OFFICE LADY" ROLE INTO ONE WHERE SHE HAS A "SPECIAL" OCCUPATION!

IF I COULD JUST SAY, "THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANGE THE LEAD ACTRESS," THEN NONE OF THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
BUT SINCE WE HAVE SPONSORS LIKE O O AND CF INVOLVED IN THIS, THAT CANNOT BE AN OPTION
NOT TO MENTION, HER MANAGEMENT FIRM IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THOSE
SFX (large) SIGH
THAT IS THE CASE, BUT
WITH THE DRAMA COMPLETED, IT'S COME TO PASS THAT THE "ORDINARY OFFICE LADY" ROLE DOESN'T REALLY FIT CHISATO-SAN, SO
DECIDING THAT ON THEIR OWN LIKE THAT
YOU YOURSELF SHOULD BE WELL AWARE OF HOW MANY CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES WE MADE IN SETTING UP AND COMPLETING THAT DRAMA!
INSTEAD OF "ORDINARY OFFICE LADY," IT'LL HAVE TO BE "AN OFFICE LADY WITH SPIRITUAL POWERS."
NO
KEI-SAN EXPLOSION PENDING
SFX (small) ewish
SO CAN WE STICK WITH THE PREVIOUS SETUP OR NOT?

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!
SHE'S EX-PLODED.
I'LL JUST STEP ASIDE.
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS THE LIMIT.

DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE QUITTING??
KEI!

I'M NOT SAYING I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT BEING FIXED
AFTERALL, I'M A PRO, AND IF WE DO THIS CONSENSUALLY, I DON'T FEEL THE CHANGES ARE CONDUCIVE TO A WASTE OF EFFORT ON MY PART.
HOW THE HECK IS THAT SOMETHING I PRODUCED WHEN YOU'RE JUST ALTERING IT AS YOU PLEASE!
HOWEVER, THIS IS YOUR PRODUCT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS FINDING A WRITER WHO IS MORE USEFUL THAN I AM, RIGHT?
I MEAN IT
AS A PROFESSIONAL, DON'T JUST TOSS ASIDE WORK IN WHICH YOU'VE ALREADY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY!
HOWEVER, THE TELEVISION BROADCAST DATE IS ALREADY FIXED.
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL
I JUST CANNOT PERMIT ANY MORE ALTERING OF MY WORK OVER SUCH IRRITATING REASONS
HOWEVER, ALL THIS WHINING ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT FIRM OR THE SPONSORS,

SFX: SNAP SNAP SNAP
I HEAR IT THE SOUNDS OF HER VEINS EXPLODING...
ALRIGHT
HOWEVER, THIS IS THE LAST TIME.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE "WORK" INTERFERING WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP ANYMORE
I WILL NEVER WORK WITH YOU AGAIN.

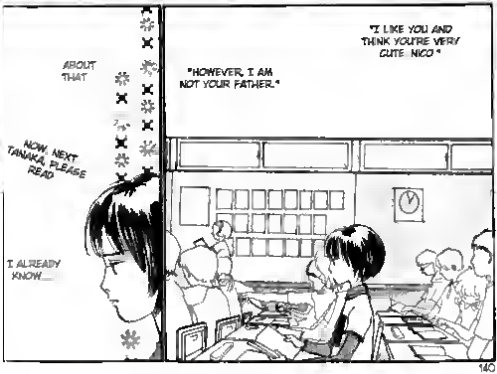
ALRIGHT...
THAT MAY BE BETTER FOR THE BOTH OF US.
WOW! KEI-GNEESAN'S HAIR IS ORANGE!!
I FIGURED I'D BE DARING AND DYE IT SO I CAN RESTORE MY GOOD MOOD.
SCARY. YOU LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE DELINQUENTS.
WHAT CHARACTERIZATION.
YOU CALL THIS "STANDING OUT."

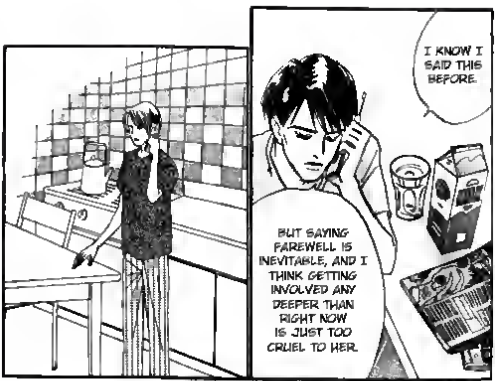
GRR ---
IF I CHANGE THIS, I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THAT AS WELL...
ONEE-SAN!
GRR ---
KEI-ONEESAN.

SFX: Mumble Mumble Mumble

I'M NOT CALLING REGARDING WORK.
THIS IS A PERSONAL CALL.
IF YOU'RE CALLING ABOUT THE SCRIPT, I NEED A BIT MORE...
IT'S THE ALMIGHTY PRODUCER.
AHH...
IT'S ME.
SHE ASKED ME TO ATTEND A SCHOOL GATHERING FOR GUARDIANS
HUH?
WHAT?
IF YOU'RE CALLING TO ASK FOR A DATE, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT!
I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM NICO THIS MORNING.
PER-SONAL ?

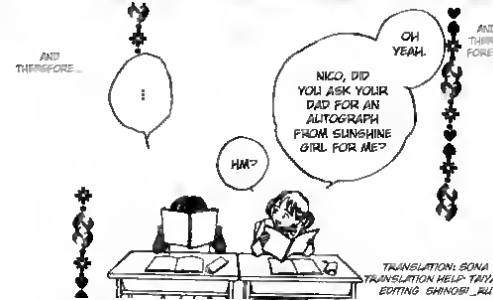
I REFUSED.
AND WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SHE ASKED YOU?!
SHE SAID, "KEI-ONEE-SAN STAYED UP WORKING THE WHOLE NIGHT, AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER"...


"I LIKE YOU AND THINK YOU'RE VERY CUTE, NICO."
"HOWEVER, I AM NOT YOUR FATHER."
ABOUT THAT
NOW, NEXT TANAKA, PLEASE READ
I ALREADY KNOW...


I KNOW I SAID THIS BEFORE.
BUT SAYING FAREWELL IS INEVITABLE, AND I THINK GETTING INVOLVED ANY DEEPER THAN RIGHT NOW IS JUST TOO CRUEL TO HER.
I'VE NEVER BEEN A FATHER BEFORE,
I KNOW I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED
AND I KNEW THE SECOND I HEARD NICO'S VOICE OVER THE PHONE
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, I FELT THAT I HAD BECOME A DAD....

KEI-ONEESAN IS NOT MY MOTHER, AND KOU-SAN IS NOT MY FATHER.
I ALREADY KNOW THIS
I'M SORRY TO ASK SOMETHING SO WEIRD ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT...
AN ACTRESS?
THERE MUST BE TONS OF THEM AROUND YOU
KOU-SAN... HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ACTRESS?
NO, I HAVEN'T
WHY DO YOU ASK?

I KNOW ALL THAT TOO
SHE CAN'T COME BE-CAUSE SHE'S BUSY
NO
THE FACT THAT EVEN GOOD TIMES WILL EVENTUALLY MEET THEIR ENDS.
IS YOUR MOM COMING TODAY?
...
IT'S NOTHING...
I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK.



TRANSLATION: SONA
TRANSLATION HELP: TAIYAKI
EDITING: SHINOBI_JILL